



**Australian Government**

**Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

**Family Support Drought Response Team**

The Family Support Drought Response Teams (FSDRT) initiative is designed specifically for individuals and families, including small business owners, who are affected by the drought.

These services include counselling; crisis support, relationship education and skills training; community development; support; and information, referral and outreach services.

**FSDRT key outcomes:**

- Assist individuals, families and small businesses experiencing relationship difficulties or pressures as a result of the drought,
- Build resilience in people so they can better manage the pressures of rural life which contribute to isolation, mental illness, drug and alcohol misuse, family violence and other factors related to rural suicide, and
- Build community capacity to respond to the changing needs of rural families and individuals, including small businesses.

**Priorities for FSDRT**

- Free service to all clients
- Holistic and whole of family approach to strengthen families and minimise the damage to their relationships
- Outreach to rural areas including home visiting
- Complementing and networking with other government and community organisations
- Deliver a integrated service

In Victoria, there are 5 Family Relationship Services ([www.fahcsia.gov.au/families](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/families)) which deliver the FSDRT program through 7 teams. These teams cover the whole of Victoria (except metropolitan Melbourne).

**Contact details and service locations**

Organisations	Contact	Services located*	Catchment (Statistical Sub-divisions)
Centacare Catholic Diocese of Ballarat	Stephen Mills Ph:(03)53378925 <a href="mailto:stephen.mills@centacareballarat.org.au">stephen.mills@centacareballarat.org.au</a>	Ballarat, Mildura  outreach is provided to small towns in catchment	East Central Highlands, West Mallee, South Wimmera, North Wimmera, Ballarat City
Centacare Diocese of Sandhurst (Teams 1 & 2)	Liz March (03) 5443 9577 <a href="mailto:liz.march@centacare-sandhurst.org.au">liz.march@centacare-sandhurst.org.au</a>	Bendigo, Shepparton Cobram, Echuca, Wodonga, Wangaratta	South West Goulburn, South Loddon, North Loddon, North Goulburn, West Ovens-Murray, East Ovens-Murray, Wodonga
Centacare Catholic Family Services	Julie Harrison, Director, Counselling and Family Services 03 9287 5502	Sale, Geelong, Torquay, Maffra, Drysdale,	Wellington Shire, East Barwon, West Barwon

	<a href="mailto:Julie.harrison@centacaremelbourne.org.au">Julie.harrison@centacaremelbourne.org.au</a>	Winchelsea	
Relationships Australia (Victoria) Teams 1 and 2	Andrew Bickerdike, General Manager, Operations 03 8573 2200 <a href="mailto:abickerdike@rav.org.au">abickerdike@rav.org.au</a>	Ballarat, Shepparton, Benalla, Nagambie, Euroa, Swan Hill, Ballarat, Orbost Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Warragul,	East Mallee, South Goulburn, West Gippsland, LaTrobe Valley, South Gippsland, East Gippsland
Community Connections Victoria	Sarah Prescott, Executive Manager, Counselling 1300 361 680 <a href="mailto:sprescott@comconnect.com.au">sprescott@comconnect.com.au</a>	Hamilton, Portland, Warrnambool, Ararat, Lake Bolac	Glenelg, West Central Highlands, Hopkins

\*the services may be delivered from outlets in these towns or it may be a visiting service. The FSDR teams are required to provide a service to clients across their catchment area.